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OCI No. 3020/63

11 October 1963

VIETNAMESE SUMMARY SUPPLEMENT

(Information as of 1100 EDT)

1. Madame Nhu, dropped from the front pages of New York morning newspapers, took pills during her appearance at Sarah Lawrence College yesterday and summoned a doctor to her hotel suite later to treat her for exhaustion. She was scheduled for two local New York television appearances and a talk at Fordham University today.
2. Her first engagement yesterday was a luncheon with magazine editors at the Time-Life Building in Radio City. Reporting on this was limited to fashion notes on Mme. Nhu and her daughter, and the fact that a crowd of 300 watched her arrive for the luncheon under heavy police escort.
3. She drove to Sarah Lawrence in Bronxville, where a few freshman pickets carried signs criticizing the Diem regime. She told a faculty-student audience variously reported at 500-700 that the US and South Vietnam are in "the last 15 minutes of the last battle which decides the fate of the war," and that the enemy naturally is trying to create misunderstandings and confusion. "When Americans take the initiative to request a change in policy--we do not know what that change is, if they should press a change, it will affect the moral prestige of your country in the last 15 minutes. It may also materially affect the last battle somehow." She said South Vietnam "does not intend to be a beggar" and would be the first to request an aid cut "when the time is ripe."
4. In a question period, she reiterated that Buddhist deaths in Hue on 8 May were the result of a bomb, probably thrown by Communists, rather than government repressive action. She said she and the Diem regime would abide by the final verdict of UN observers about to visit South Vietnam on the extent of regime responsibility for the Hue casualties.

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5. The AP said she shook and her voice quavered during the speech, and that at one point she verged on collapse. The start of her talk, sponsored by the International Relations Club of the college, was delayed briefly.

6. TASS has taken note of her American tour, citing the Overseas Press Club appearance Wednesday as "a farce planned to divert the attention of the American public from the cruel repressions." TASS scolded American UN representatives for efforts to prevent UN discussion of violation of human rights in South Vietnam.

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